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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR

❖ 1946. ❖

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# TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the Year 1946.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

- “ A ”     Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ”     General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ”     Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ”     Housing.
- “ E ”     Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ”     Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

## SECTION “ A ”

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)                    ...        ...        ...        ...        ...	3,681
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books                    ...        ...        ...        ...	1,282
Rateable Value                    ...        ...        ...        ...        ...	£18,919
Sum represented by one Penny Rate                    ...        ...	£74
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid. 1946)                    ...        ...        ...        ...        ...	4,576

### Vital Statistics for the Area:—

#### Live Births

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	104	57	47
Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	4	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	110	61	49

The birth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 24.03 for the Borough.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 19.1 for the same period.

### Still Births

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	2	2	—

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was 17.85.

### Deaths.

Total	Male	Female
72	37	35

The Death rate was 15.73 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5 per 1,000 population.

### Maternal Mortality Rate

There were no deaths of Mothers associated with child-birth during the year.

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	4	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	5	4	1

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 45.45.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the same period for England and Wales was 43.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

## Causes of Death (including Transferable Deaths)

						Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...				4	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...			3	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...				—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...				—	1
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...			3	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Premature Birth, Congenital Diseases and Malformations	...	...				2	—
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
						—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	36	36

## SECTION "B"

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

**Laboratory Services.** These are provided by the Worcester-shire County Council.

**Ambulance Facilities.** These are provided from Kidderminster.

**Home Nursing.** There are two District Nurses employed by District Nursing Associations, one for Bewdley, the other for Wribbenhall. The Wribbenhall Nurse is also Health Visitor, a duty which is carried out in Bewdley by a Health Visitor employed by the County Council.

**Clinics.** An Ante-Natal Clinic is held once a fortnight at the Wribbenhall Parish Room, where an Infant Welfare Clinic is also held, and Diphtheria Immunisation carried out.

**Hospitals.** The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.

Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Venereal Disease at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

## SECTION "C"

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

The water is regularly analysed and pronounced very satisfactory.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The sewage disposal system is now working satisfactorily, and there is no pollution of the River Severn.

There was a very large flood in the early part of the year. Many houses in the lower part of the town were flooded and considerable damage to property was caused. Owing to the wet summer I doubt if many of the houses ever got properly dry, but I could not trace any definite bad results to the health of the inhabitants.

## SECTION "D"

### Housing

The first instalment of 26 houses on the Bark Hill site was begun during the year.

## SECTION "E"

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

## SECTION "F"

### Prevalence of, and Control Over Infectious Diseases Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows:—

1.	Pre-School Children	...	...	148
2.	School Children	...	...	70
				<hr/>
	Total	...	...	218
				<hr/>

At the end of 1946 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0-5 and 5-15 years were 88.43 p.c. and 98.65 p.c. respectively.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, one of which was an adult, the other a child. The child had received one immunisation injection.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	6	5	—
Diphtheria ... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	20	—	5
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	33	—	—
Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	3	—	5
Non-pulmonary T.B. ...	1	—	—

### Tuberculosis

The following Table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	—	1	4	1	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

U. W. N. MILES

Medical Officer of Health



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1946

## Circular 13/47

### Water.

1. The water supply for the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. 11 Chemical and Bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, which is drawn from boreholes in sandstone.
3. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.
4. No action was necessary for any form of contamination.
- 5a. The number of houses supplied by public water mains is 1248. Population supplied: 4580.
- b. 17 houses are supplied by stand pipes. Population supplied: 64. 17 houses are supplied by wells. Population supplied: 63.

### Drainage and Sewerage

The new sewerage scheme is now in full operation, and pan closets, where provided, are being rapidly converted to w.c.'s

The sewage is pumped from a central pumping station in the Borough direct to the joint outfall works in the Kidderminster Borough area.

No. of dumbwells, pans and middens emptied: 152.

### Housing

**Private Enterprise.**—Work has commenced on the erection of 16 new houses on Trimpley Lane. The houses are parlour type with three bedrooms.

**Corporation.**—Sanction having been received from the Ministry of Health, work was commenced in November, 1946, on the erection of 24 new parlour type three-bedroomed houses, and 2 parlour type four-bedroomed houses on the Bark Hill Housing Estate. Roads, sewers, water mains and all other services have already been provided for a total of 80 houses on this site.



## Scavenging.

House refuse is removed weekly in the town and once every fortnight in the outlying areas, and is taken to the authorised tip on the outskirts of the town.

## Salvage.

Salvage is collected once every fortnight from houses and once a week from business premises in the town. The workmen are paid a bonus to encourage them to collect as much as possible.

## Inspections

The following is a list of the inspections carried out:—


a.	Dwelling Houses .....	220
b.	Factories .....	7
c.	Workshops .....	1
d.	Nuisances .....	23
e.	Dairies and Cowsheds .....	7
f.	Shops .....	26
g.	Infectious Diseases .....	14
Total ... ..		<u>298</u>

I am,

Your obedient servant,

S. J. ROWE,

Sanitary Inspector,



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